

1     **CLAIMS**

2  
3     **1.**    A user interface comprising:

4           a graphical interface that enables a user to select media-playing services,  
5 wherein the graphical interface is integrated into an operating system shell's user  
6 interface.

7  
8     **2.**    The user interface of claim 1, wherein the graphical interface further enables  
9 the user to select media-playing services with a single click of a mouse.

10  
11    **3.**    The user interface of claim 1, wherein the graphical interface further enables  
12 the user to select media-playing services with a single click of a mouse when  
13 another application running in another process is in perspective.

14  
15    **4.**    The user interface of claim 3, wherein the perspective includes the other  
16 application being in focus.

17  
18    **5.**    The user interface of claim 1, wherein the graphical interface further enables  
19 the user to select media-playing services without altering a perspective of another  
20 application running in another process.

21  
22    **6.**    The user interface of claim 1, wherein the graphical interface includes  
23 control buttons for selection of the media-playing services.  
24  
25

1 7. The user interface of claim 1, wherein the graphical interface includes  
2 control buttons for selection of the media-playing services including services that  
3 stop and pause a first media file being played and start a second media file.

4  
5 8. The user interface of claim 1, wherein the graphical interface includes a  
6 control button for selection of the media-playing services including a service that  
7 alters a size for a presenting of a visual aspect of a media file.

8  
9 9. The user interface of claim 1, wherein the graphical interface includes a  
10 control button for selection of the media-playing services including a service that  
11 alters a volume for a playback of an audio aspect of a media file.

12  
13 10. The user interface of claim 1, further comprising:  
14 a visual space for presenting of visual media.

15  
16 11. The user interface of claim 1, further comprising:  
17 a visual space for presenting of visual media;  
18 wherein the graphical interface enables the user to select media-playing  
19 services to alter the presenting in the visual space.

20  
21 12. The user interface of claim 1, further comprising:  
22 a visual space for presenting metadata associated with a media file.

23  
24 13. The user interface of claim 1, further comprising:  
25 a visual space for presenting metadata associated with a media file,

1            wherein the graphical interface enables the user to select media-playing  
2 services to present metadata associated with the media file.

3  
4 **14.**    A system comprising:

5            a media-playing application in computer memory executing in a shell  
6 process of an operating system, wherein the media-playing application is capable  
7 of enabling a user to control media through a user interface integrated into a  
8 taskbar associated with the shell process.

9  
10 **15.**    The system of claim 14, wherein preferences for displaying the user  
11 interface in the taskbar are retained by the media-playing application for future  
12 use.

13  
14 **16.**    The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application is capable  
15 of receiving preferences for how the user interface is displayed and used that are  
16 received from the user through another application executing in the shell process.

17  
18 **17.**    The system of claim 14, further comprising a player deskband, wherein the  
19 player deskband is capable of receiving preferences relating to the user interface  
20 and sending the preferences to the media-playing application.

21  
22 **18.**    The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application comprises a  
23 deskband and a controller, the deskband configured to communicate with the shell  
24 process and the operating system, the controller configured to enable the user to  
25 control media through the user interface.

1  
2 **19.** The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application comprises a  
3 visual space and a user interface, the visual space usable for presenting visual  
4 media, the user interface capable of enabling the user to control the presenting.

5  
6 **20.** The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application is capable  
7 of creating the user interface to have a minimum visual size on the taskbar.

8  
9 **21.** The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application is capable  
10 of creating the user interface following a skin file containing text, art, and script  
11 parameters.

12  
13 **22.** The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application is capable  
14 of presenting visual media.

15  
16 **23.** The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application is capable  
17 of presenting audio media.

18  
19 **24.** The system of claim 14, wherein the media-playing application is capable  
20 of presenting metadata associated with a media file being presented by the media-  
21 playing application.

22  
23 **25.** A system comprising:  
24 a controller;  
25 a playback module;

1 a visual space; and

2 a user interface,

3 wherein:

4 the controller is capable of creating the user interface;

5 the user interface is integrated within an operating-system shell's  
6 user interface and is capable of enabling a user to input preferences for play  
7 of a media file; and

8 the playback module is capable of rendering the media file to enable  
9 the controller to present the media file in the visual space.  
10

11 **26.** The system of claim 25, further comprising a deskband, wherein the  
12 deskband is capable of aiding the controller in determining parameters for the user  
13 interface to conform by communicating with an operating system that governs the  
14 operating-system shell's user interface.  
15

16 **27.** The system of claim 25, further comprising a deskband, wherein the  
17 deskband is capable of building a file containing parameters for the user interface  
18 to conform to an operating-system shell governing the operating-system shell's  
19 user interface.  
20

21 **28.** The system of claim 25, wherein the visual space is graphically connected  
22 to the user interface.  
23  
24  
25

1 **29.** The system of claim 25, wherein the user interface includes media-playing  
2 services that stop, play, pause, skip forward or backward through, and change to a  
3 next or previous track of the media file.

4  
5 **30.** The system of claim 25, wherein the user interface includes media-playing  
6 services that stop, play, and pause the media file.

7  
8 **31.** The system of claim 25, wherein the user interface is capable of enabling  
9 the user to input preferences through dragging and dropping an icon representing a  
10 media file onto the visual space or the user interface.

11  
12 **32.** The system of claim 25, wherein the user interface and the playback  
13 module execute in different processes.

14  
15 **33.** The system of claim 25, wherein the user interface and the playback  
16 module execute in one process.

17  
18 **34.** The system of claim 25, wherein the user interface executes in a first  
19 process governing the operating system shell's user interface, the playback module  
20 executes in a second process, and the user interface includes a button to select a  
21 service that switches presentation of media from the visual space to a second  
22 visual space created by an application running in the second process.

1 **35.** A method comprising:  
2 presenting a graphical user interface integrated into a taskbar user interface;  
3 and  
4 enabling, without the graphical user interface being in perspective, a user to  
5 select media-playing services through the graphical user interface.  
6

7 **36.** The method of claim 35, wherein the enabling is performed also without  
8 the graphical user interface being in focus.  
9

10 **37.** The method of claim 35, further comprising:  
11 presenting a media file in accord with the selected media-playing services.  
12

13 **38.** The method of claim 35, further comprising:  
14 presenting a visual media file in a visual space integrated with the graphical  
15 user interface in accord with the selected media-playing services.  
16

17 **39.** The method of claim 35, further comprising:  
18 presenting a visual media file in a visual space without the visual space  
19 being in perspective.  
20

21 **40.** The method of claim 35, further comprising:  
22 presenting a visual media file in a visual space without the visual space  
23 being in focus.  
24  
25

1   **41.**    A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions  
2   that perform the following when executed by a computer:

3         present a media-control user interface in a first process for controlling  
4   services associated with playing media; and

5         enable a user that is actively engaged with a non-media-control user  
6   interface in a second process to interact with the media-control user interface  
7   without disengaging from the non-media-control user interface.

8  
9   **42.**    The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein the interaction with  
10   the media-control user interface includes selection of a media service.

11  
12   **43.**    The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein the interaction with  
13   the media-control user interface includes selection of a media service and consists  
14   of a single mouse click.

15  
16   **44.**    The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein the interaction with  
17   the media-control user interface includes selection of a media service and consists  
18   of a single command.

19  
20   **45.**    The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein the interaction with  
21   the media-control user interface includes selection of a media service and consists  
22   of a single keystroke.

23  
24   **46.**    The computer-readable medium of claim 41, further comprising:  
25   provide media-playing services based on the interaction.



1  
2 **47.** The computer-readable medium of claim 41, further comprising:  
3 present visual media in a visual space if the interaction includes a selection  
4 to present visual media.

5  
6 **48.** The computer-readable medium of claim 41, further comprising:  
7 present visual media with aid from a playback module executing in the first  
8 process if the interaction includes a selection to present visual media.

9  
10 **49.** The computer-readable medium of claim 41, further comprising:  
11 present visual media with aid from a playback module executing in a third  
12 process if the interaction includes a selection to present visual media.

13  
14 **50.** A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions  
15 that perform the following when executed by a computer:

16 create a first user interface with graphically selectable media-control  
17 services and running in a first process; and

18 enable selection of the media-control services while a second user interface  
19 running in a second process remains in perspective.

20  
21 **51.** The computer-readable medium of claim 50, wherein the media-control  
22 services include initiating and ceasing play of a media file.

23  
24 **52.** The computer-readable medium of claim 50, wherein the selection of one  
25 or more of the media-control services is enabled with a single mouse click.

1  
2 **53.** The computer-readable medium of claim 50, wherein the first user  
3 interface is integrated into an operating system's taskbar.

4  
5 **54.** The computer-readable medium of claim 50, wherein the first process is  
6 used by an operating system for executing a taskbar.

7  
8 **55.** An apparatus comprising:

9 means for presenting a user interface in a first process for controlling  
10 services associated with playing media; and

11 means for enabling a user interacting with a second process to interact with  
12 the user interface without ceasing to interact with the second process.

13  
14 **56.** The apparatus of claim 55, further comprising:

15 means for playing a media file based on preferences received from the user  
16 during the interaction with the user interface.